

PAGE FOR WOMEN ABOUT FASHIONS AND HOME



The Xmas Shopper.

Every one should have a hobby to ride. (This is not the advertisement for a toy store, but simply another oracle.) For loneliness a hobby is the best of good company; for near-sighted sympathies it is at best a partial cure for the ills of the world; for vitality it is going down and the wrinkles spreading their claws about the eyes there is nothing which keeps us a brisk interest in life as surely as a well-ordered hobby, be it chickens or the study of art, the schooling of horses or the collecting of stamps. I heard one man declare the other day that his hobby was the collecting of coins. He might say of rare coins, he added, for it was his experience that all coins were rare and hard to secure.

Another advantage of a hobby is that it is so easy to decide upon a Christmas gift suitable to the man who keeps the hobby. For instance, there is a long list of charming books that it would be wise to give to the man who is fond of nature study. In Nature's Garden, by Mabel Elman, O.C. Doubleday, would naturally head such a list; for the readers of this delightful book on botany are not obliged to find their way through a bewildering labyrinth of technical terms, but are led instead across the green pastures of flower lore by a guide who has an altogether charming style of mingling fact and fancy and legend in all of her narrative. Some other books of the kind are How to Know the Wild Flowers, by Mrs. Dana; Nature Study and Life, by some one named Hodges; Birds of Eastern North America, by Chapman; Plants, whose author's name is Coulter; Our Native Trees, by H. L. Keeler; any or all of John Burroughs's writings; Trees in Winter, by Anna O. Huntington; and a charming little biography of a bird called "Bob." The last of these, or any one "who likes that sort of thing, that is the very sort of thing he likes."

THE GIFT FOR AN ARTIST.
If you are on an expedition to find a present for an artist you should not have to search very far. There are so many articles which simply call out to you to buy them. The International Studio Magazine is one of these, and so is L'Art et Decoration and Decorative Visions, though the latter is more of a magazine than a book. The former is published entirely for students of design. A paint box, draperies or other ornaments for a studio; the oft-needed portfolio, a pretty, quaint costume for a model, and all the thousand and one books written about art and artists too, might be very welcome to the wielders of the paint brush.

MISCELLANEOUS PRESENTS.
For women, old and young; for women with hobbies and women without any hobbies at all, handkerchiefs are always acceptable presents. It is very rarely that any one can have too large a number of too great a variety of handkerchiefs. I did know one woman several years ago who was overstocked with those useful articles. She was a music teacher in Baltimore, and years after year she had a lot of her pupils used at Christmas time to take the form of handkerchiefs. Maybe they felt that she was peculiarly in need of handkerchiefs, because their efforts to make music were so conducive to tears. Photograph frames, I think, rival handkerchiefs in general usefulness nowadays, when we have so many photographs to house from the dust. Another small and useful article is a clothes' hanger, which can be bought at the fancy goods counter of almost any store, very daintily covered with silk and satin pads. For the girl who likes to keep her theatrical programmes, a programme scrap-book is a pretty present. The present is made by having a printer put up what seems like an ordinary scrap-book with gratings, excepting that for the binding there are two stiff white cardboard backs. On the front face paint a couple of old Greek masks, with fluttering ribbons, or two crowns, or any other design that suggests the stage.

A shirt, waist box, covered with crepe or decorated with burnt wood work, would make an acceptable present. And so would gold mounted shell barettes for clasping the hair at the back, Indian work baskets, fitted up with needles, hook and buttons, with colored cottons in cross stitches; muffs and fan chains, centerpieces and table covers and any sort of flower that has leaves and blossoms.

PRESENTS FOR MEN.
For men there are a good many presents to be found in the jewelry stores. One of the Main Street shops shows a silver mounted cigar box, with a patent

Christmas Games.
A fine old Christmas toast it is, which says:
"All joys and jollities,
Nay on thy holiday;
True love and friendliness,
Smallow thy happiness!"

For the elders, after the Christmas turkey and the plum pudding have been discussed, there is pleasant intercourse and interchange of thoughts prompted by the gentle spirit which rules the hour. The merry youngsters at their inclinations prompt, turn to Christmas games and customs which have prevailed at this season since lads have been lads and lassies their sweethearts.

Tennyson alludes to old English Christmas games when he says:
"Charades and riddles as at Christmas here and 'What's My Thought' and 'When and Where and How?'
"What's My Thought" is a pretty conceit played after this wise: A person puts it in motion by asking "What's my thought like?" He is answered by players in turn: "Like a carpet," "A piano," "A tree," "A road," "A church," "A laughter," "Crying," "Ice-cream," "A clock."
The questioner then announces: "My thought was Miss Douglas, will you tell me why she is like a carpet?"
The answer comes: "Because she is a blending of what is rare and beautiful." Then the other responses follow: "She is like a piano, because her tones are harmonious."
"Like a tree, because she is often clothed in green."
"Like a road, because she is traveled."
"Like a church, because she attracts worshippers."
"Like laughter," because her face is

PRIZE CONTEST IN STUDY OF NATIONS

The Women's Page, now that Christmas is near, invites the women of Richmond to join in a search, the nature of which is indicated below.
The most successful finder who forwards this result of her search to The Times-Dispatch so that it may be received and read Thursday, December 17th, will receive a Christmas gift, with the compliments of the Page. Should two correct answers be received, two gifts will be awarded.
Remember the contest closes Thursday.

A Search for Nations.

- Find:
1. The nation politicians would like to obtain.
2. The one that a King is certain to gain.
3. The nation for those who rise and rebel.
4. The one to avoid if we wish to keep well.
5. The nation for him who laughs loud and long.
6. The one for the men who plot to do wrong.
7. The nation for those with hearts full of sorrow.
8. The one for the man who delays till to-morrow.
9. The nation for those who are weak in the head.
10. The one that all pupils most certainly dread.
11. The only nation for poets of all kinds.
12. The one the irresolute should seek till he finds.
13. The nation to which the fanciful go.
14. The one where an actor may make a good show.
15. The nation for sinners that never repent.
16. The one that for teachers is certainly meant.
17. The nation for those who darkness would shun.
18. The one we all reach when our journey is done.
19. The nation for him who the highest point gains.
20. The one for the man who the Sabbath profanes.
21. The nation toward which all of us lean.
22. The one where amazement and fright may be seen.
23. The nation where the fortune teller is at home.
24. And the nation to which I now have come.

Jewels in Heraldry.

Jewels in heraldry represent colors. The topaz represents or—gold—or the planet Sol.
The pearl or crystal represents argent—silver—or the planet Luna.
The ruby represents gules—red—or the planet Mars.
The sapphire represents azure—blue—or the planet Jupiter.
The diamond represents sable—black—or the planet Saturn.
The emerald represents vert—green—or the planet Venus.
The amethyst represents purple—purple—or the planet Mercury.

DAILY MENU DECEMBER 14TH.

Breakfast.

Spanish Mackerel, broiled and garnished with parsley and sliced lemon.
Plain Omelet.
French Rolls. Flannel Cakes.
Tea. Coffee.

FRENCH ROLLS.

Sift one pound of flour and rub into it two ounces of butter. Beat two eggs very light; add one tablespoonful of strong yeast; make into a stiff dough with milk, adding one teaspoonful of salt.

Cover the dough and set it near the fire to rise. It should be light in an hour. Place on the moulding board, and divide into small rolls or round cakes. Lay these in a baking pan and bake in a quick oven.

Dinner.

Cream Tomato Soup.
Boiled Shrimp, Egg Sauce.
Porterhouse Steak.
Creamed Potatoes. Baked Tomatoes.
Salsify. Spinach.
Rice Meringue Pudding.
Coffee.

RICE MERINGUE PUDDING.
Boil a half a tea cup of rice in a quart of milk until perfectly tender. Mash smooth, sweeten and flavor to taste, then allow it to cool.

Separate the yolks and whites of three eggs. Beat the yolks and add them to the rice and milk. If preferred, add a handful of stoned raisins. Pour into a pudding dish and bake. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff meringue, with half a pound of pulverized sugar. Flavor with lemon or vanilla, spread in an even layer over the pudding and brown in a very quick oven.

Supper.

Creamed Oysters. Celery Salad.
Beaten Biscuit. Muffins.
Canned Peaches. Whipped Cream.
Tea. Chocolate.

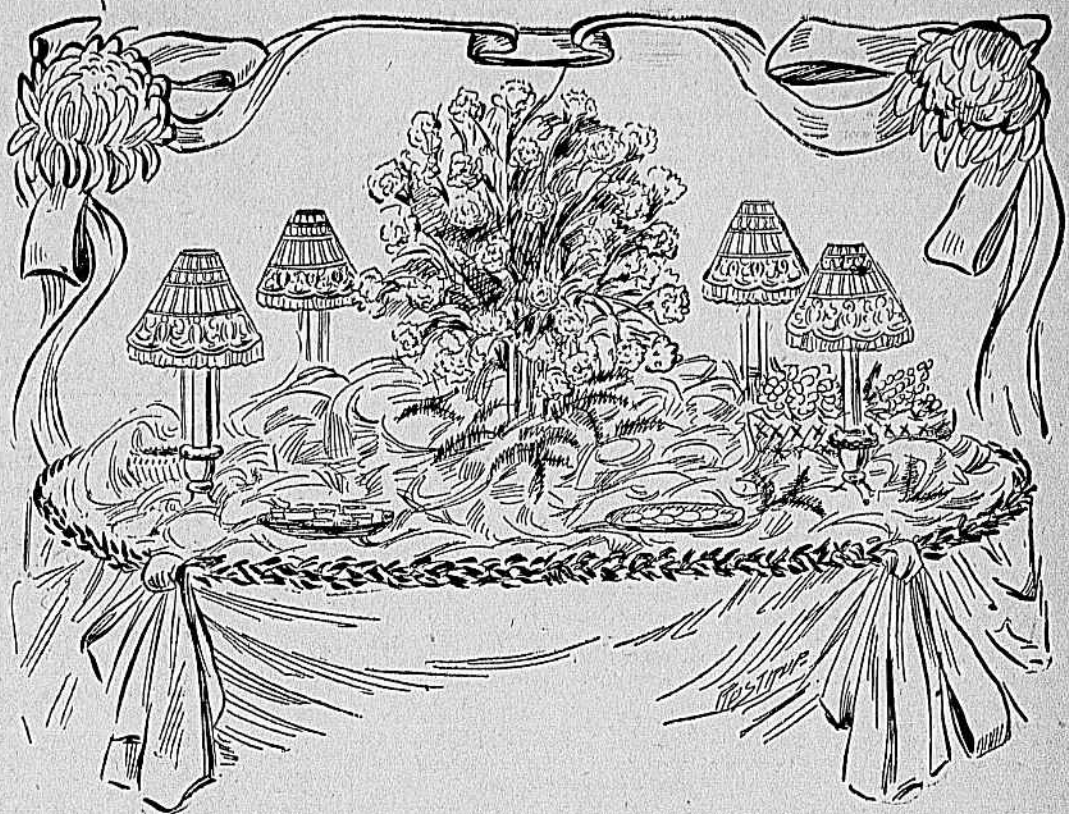
CREAM DOYSTERS.

One quart of oysters, one-half pint of milk, one-half pint of oyster liquor, one tablespoonful of butter, creamed with two tablespoonfuls of flour.
Make the cream by mixing the above ingredients in a saucepan. As soon as they come to a boil, drop in the oysters and allow them to cook ten minutes. Serve hot, on thin rounds of lightly browned toast.

ISABELLA THOMPSON.

The Wife of To-day.

Oh, don't you remember the girl you once met
In the Kingdom of Love long ago?
Ah, surely her sweet face is haunting you yet.
As when first it enraptured you so!
How happy you were in those summery days
With that dear little girl by your side,
Who listened to all of your fond words of praise,
When she promised she would be your bride.
And well you remember how happy you were
On the day she was wedded to you;
How proudly and fondly you looked upon her.
Like a flower of radiant hue,
And wasn't life joyous and rosy then,
In the heart of the wife of to-day!



IN GREEN AND WHITE.

An artistic example of taste in table decoration by the hostess of a handsome Richmond entertainment during the past week. The centerpiece is of white carnations and mignonette, the color scheme in green and white.

And sufficient the fulness thereof,
In those dreamy days so long ago when
You sojourned in the Kingdom of Love?

Ah, yes, you remember those bright days
As you did in the long, long ago,
When she was a girl and your heart felt
The thrill of love.

Come, that memory haunting you yet,
But, pray, do not dwell in the past over-
more,
While the present is gliding away.
For, husband, remember that sweet girl
Of yore
Is the true, loving wife of to-day!

And do you ever love her as tenderly still
As you did in the long, long ago,
When she was a girl and your heart felt
The thrill of love?
Of that rapturous passion glow?
Those summery days have long vanished
And gone
In the past's silent vistas away
But the love of that maiden still lives on
In the heart of the wife of to-day!

—Sidney Warren Mass.

HOLIDAY GOWNS

Should Harmonize With Christmas Colors in Red and Green.

Perhaps one reason why white is so universally worn at Christmas balls, receptions and teas is because it contrasts so well with the holly and mistletoe, which are the rule in decoration during the holiday season.

All thin and clinging materials in white have displayed the stiffer and less graceful brocade and taffeta. Crepe de chine, shirred and accordion-plaited, trimmed with lace or chiffon, are first favorites, and are pretty enough to justify the choice. The prettiness is all the more pronounced when the wearer stands against a background of winter greenery and has a spray of holly berries and leaves, making a coronal for glossy braids of hair.

ORGANDY FOR HIDE.

As white is the Christmas gown de rigueur, it is well that there are so many varieties of white fabrics to choose from. The bud in white organdy is so altogether captivating and so daintily pure and fresh, and nothing is inclined to feel organdy, and nothing else should always clothe the fairness of buds.

A green tulle sash and a bouquet of American Beauties seem the only adjuncts necessary to complete the picture. One argument in favor of organdy is the ease with which it takes on becoming shapes under the manipulation of clever and skilful fingers. The girl who has a few hours of leisure in the evening and knows the use of a sewing machine can put together a holiday gown which will

be vastly becoming and wonderfully stylish.

WHITE VOILE.

Voile is another of the favorite materials this season. It is trimmed with hand embroidered, lace and applique by preference, and is specially adapted for afternoon teas and receptions. Some of the most elegant voiles are made up for the holiday with chenille embroidery, in white silk, and with net and point de esprit yokes and sleeves, adorned with pearls. White cloth gowns divide honors with white voile and white canvas. The cloth in this instance has no reference to the tailored garment. It is a gorgeous affair, having frequently a profusion of lace, mingled with fur, modillions of lace set in plush or wide collars and cuffs of Irish point.

INDIA AND CHINA SILKS.

Especially becoming to youthful slenderness are white India and China silks. These to be pretty should be fussed, they do not incline well to plainness. Shirtings, accordion-platings, ruchings of chiffon and tucks, are the aids most frequently depended upon, and those which produce most satisfactory effects.

GREEN AND RED.

So much for white. When the bud's complexion is what it should be, she may have her holiday attire in green, pale tints of this color in crepe de chine or chiffon being the prettiest. Or should she incline to bright colors, there is red in every shade, and in the most desirable materials. Yet it seems that the Christmas maiden under the mistletoe is at her best in snowy draperies, which are the natural complement of her own sweet purity.

FURNITURE MOTTOES ARE NOW IN VOGUE

A motto or a legend for every bit of furniture is now quite allowable. Here are a few which may serve a good turn for furniture, bric-a-brac, wall or ceiling:

"Enter my gates, sit thee down and welcome," may be inscribed over a hall door; or the equally appropriate lines, "Be a welcome in your eye, your hand, your tongue"; or, "Good company, good welcome."

Over a cabinet for stationery is the legend, "At your fingers' end," and "A smattering of odds and ends" appears upon a cabinet for bric-a-brac. "Here's remembrance; that's for remembrance," marks a case of souvenirs.

If the owner of the library is something of a cynic, these lines from Moore may be used:

"My only books,
Were woman's looks,
And folly's all they taught me."
The following lines may appeal to another's taste:

"If one short volume could comprise,
All that was witty, learned and wise,
How would it be esteemed and read?"

The lines, "Sequestered nooks and all the sweet serenity of books," is still another apt quotation.

Upon the frame of a mirror nothing can be more suitable than "Be to my virtues very kind, and to my faults a little blind."

Over a clock may be painted the legend: "We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts not breaths."

In feelings, not in figures on a dial."
For a rack for beer steins and Uncle Toby are the lines, "Bring hither of mighty ale a big quart," while a rack or stand for pipes and tobacco can be decorated with the lines from "Othello," "O thou weed, who art so lovely fair and smell'st so sweet." There is also the line, "Whose smoke like incense doth perfume," or "The sum of earthly bliss," may find an echo in many a mind.

"A right welcome sound" is inscribed upon a gown. For a hand-painted china tea-tray, in addition to the decoration of flowers, are the lines, "Be mistress of thyself, though China fall."

Nor must the corner where golf sticks and archery implements are kept be forgotten.

A golf bag may be emblazoned with: "Time-honored golf, I heard it whispered once,
That he who could not play was held in
dunce."
"Well won is well shot," may do for the corner where the archery outfit is kept.

Neglected "Furnishings."

The contrast was never drawn more sharply than between the simplicity of some life in the Orient and the complex-



Maud Walker
N. Y.

Showing a fashionable bear set, consisting of longboa and muff. A glimpse of very smart cape-sleeved coat of brown-mixed zibelines is also given.

Household Hints.

To make custards successfully, cook the soft custards in a double boiler over hot, not boiling water, and stir constantly. The custards to be baked should be set into a second dish half filled with warm water.

A good general rule to remember in the use of gelatine in cold water, then to dissolve in boiling water.

Neglect of either part of the process will cause trouble in making jellies.

Croton bugs may be kept at a respectful distance by scattering once a week, in crevices and corners, a powder made of burned eggshells. For an hour or two the odor will not be exactly delicate, but it will serve its purpose in routing the bugs.

In buying dress goods always add a yard or two. Not only is the additional material desirable in case of accident or for thrifty remodelling, but when in process of time the dress passes to some less fortunate person, that piece of goodness makes all the difference in the usefulness of the gift to her.